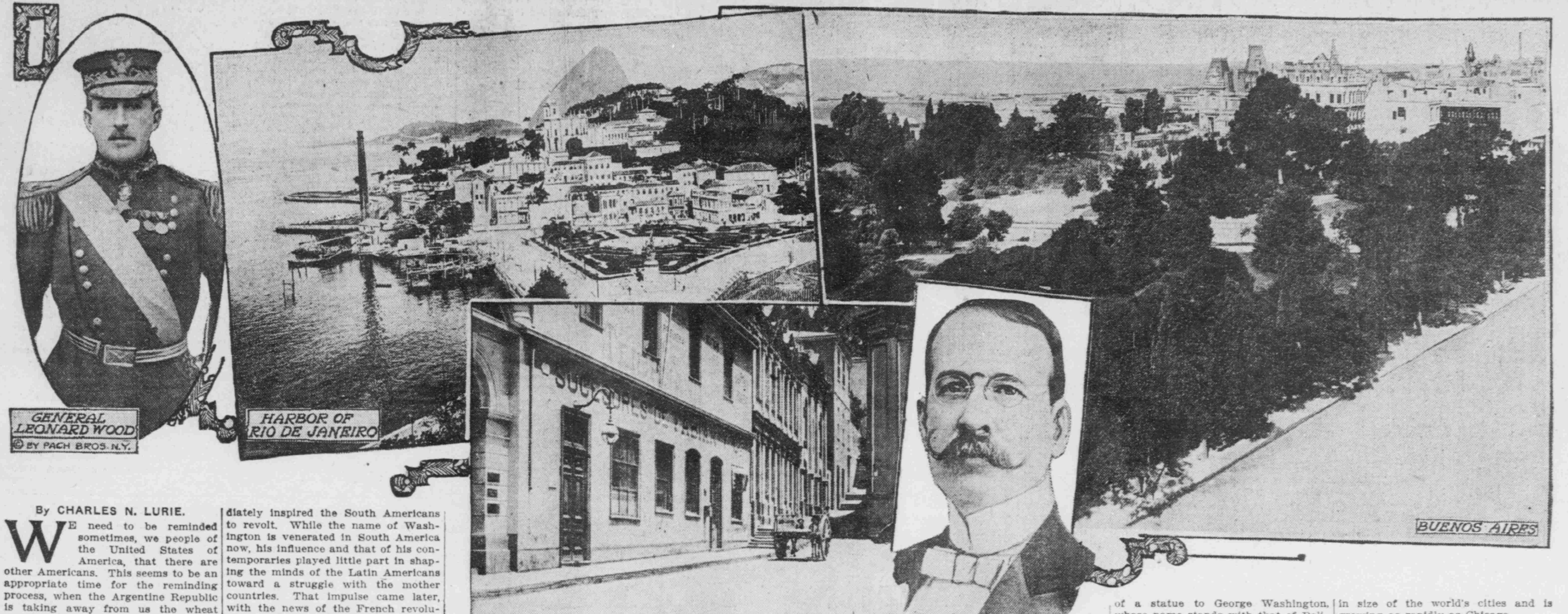


Our News Snapshot Page

This Year Is "1776" Centennial in Latin America



By CHARLES N. LURIE.

WE need to be reminded sometimes, we people of the United States of America, that there are other Americans. This seems to be an appropriate time for the reminding process, when the Argentine Republic is taking away from us the wheat trade of the world, when a newly opened railroad tunnel across the Andes connects Chile and Argentina, two of South America's most progressive countries, and when President Taft sends one of our highest army officers, with a squadron of warships, to congratulate South America on the centennial of the opening of its struggle for independence.

This is centennial year in South America. The close of the first decade of the nineteenth century saw the outbreak of the struggle that ended, years later, in the severance of the ties between Spain and Portugal and the countries of the new world. We of the north are wont to look back on our own Revolutionary war as one of the great struggles of history, forgetting that it filled only a small place in the annals of its time. We do not know, or we forget, that the strife which freed a continent bigger than our part of North America was conducted on a much grander scale and occupied many more years than our own little war on a narrow strip of seaboard territory.

It was not, indeed, the North American war for independence that imme-

diately inspired the South Americans to revolt. While the name of Washington is venerated in South America now, his influence and that of his contemporaries played little part in shaping the minds of the Latin Americans toward a struggle with the mother countries. That impulse came later, with the news of the French revolution, following a long course of oppression by Spain and Portugal.

French Revolution Set Example.

For centuries these nations had acted on the policy that guided the minds of European statesmen in relation to the treatment of colonies—that the colonies existed for the good of the mother country and not for that of the colonies. While all European countries held this doctrine to be unassailable, perhaps none of them acted upon it so thoroughly and carried its belief into action so persistently as did Spain. But the times changed, and when the seeping of liberal ideas throughout the world from the flood of the French revolution reached South America the downfall of Spanish and Portuguese domination was assured.

Although there were a few forerunners of the Spanish revolution before 1810, notably Francisco Miranda, the patriot who visited the United States in 1805 and later declared that he had obtained the approval of President Jefferson for his revolutionary projects, it was in the year named that the revolt against Spain broke out in Argentina, Chile, Venezuela and else-

where. For twenty years terrible, heartbreaking warfare was waged with ferocity on both sides, but with a steadily progressive series of recognitions of the independence of now one portion of South America and then another. The battle of Ayacucho, in Peru, Dec. 4, 1825, is generally considered to have broken the power of Spain once for all in South America.

Although South Americans generally date the beginning of their independence from the 19th of April, 1810, when the uprising occurred in Caracas, Venezuela, and Miranda and Bolivar were hailed as the liberators of the people, the Argentine Republic dates its birth on May 25 of the same year. It is on May 25 of the present year that Major General Leonard Wood, who was named by President Taft as a special envoy to convey the good wishes and congratulations of the United States to the Argentine Republic upon the occasion of the centenary celebration of the birth of the latter, will present to President Jose Figueroa

Alcora of the southern republic the greetings of her northern neighbor.

Navy at Buenos Aires.

Rear Admiral Staunton will represent the navy at Buenos Aires. He will command a special squadron, consisting of the armored cruisers Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota and Tennessee and the scout cruiser Chester. It is considered especially fitting that the American navy should represent us at Buenos Aires at this time as the Argentine Republic decided a short time ago to have constructed in the United States two big Dreadnoughts, ranking with the greatest of the world's war vessels.

Argentina, the most enterprising and progressive and one of the biggest of the South American republics, has planned a series of expositions in celebration of its centennial. They will last from May to November. There will be four distinct expositions—the exhibitions of railways and land transport, of agriculture and pastoral transport, of hygiene and arts.

May 25 is also the opening day of the celebration in Uruguay, the little country lying between Argentina and Brazil. Before arriving at Buenos Aires General Wood and Admiral Staunton will stop at Maldonado, Uruguay, to pay the respects of this country to one of the smallest of her sister states in South America. Colombia will begin the observance of its centennial on July 20, Mexico on Sept. 16, Chile on Sept. 18 and other countries on other dates throughout the year. The differences between Ecuador and Peru, which have threatened trouble for a long time and in which Bolivia and Chile are involved, may tend to disturb somewhat the harmony of the celebrations, but it is hoped that the disputes will be adjusted in time to permit a unanimous celebration, from the Rio Grande to Tierra del Fuego.

Will Unveil Washington Statue.

One of the features of the exercises in Buenos Aires will be the unveiling

of a statue to George Washington, whose name stands with that of Bolivar in the estimation of South Americans. The memory of President Monroe, author of the "hands off" doctrine that has permitted the South American countries to develop in their own way without fear of European interference, is hardly less esteemed. Statues of him stand in South America.

They are no inconsiderable countries, these Latin American republics over which the protecting shadow of the United States has been cast. They are rapidly advancing in population and wealth, and the standard of living for the masses of their peoples is constantly being elevated despite the turmoils which retard their political development.

Buenos Aires Growing Fast.

The three biggest of the countries south of the United States are Brazil, whose extent is almost equal to that of the continental territory of the United States, with 18,000,000 inhabitants; Mexico, with 14,000,000, and the Argentine Republic, with 7,000,000. The capital city of the last named country, Buenos Aires, is the largest city in the western hemisphere south of Philadelphia and has an estimated population of 1,200,000. It is fifteenth

in size of the world's cities and is growing as rapidly as Chicago.

From almost all of the South American countries and cities come similarly gratifying reports of advances in civilization and prosperity. The United States government has recognized our kinship with our South American neighbors by the maintenance of cordial relations. The establishment of the bureau of American republics was one token of our interest in Latin America. The beautiful new building of the bureau in Washington is to be dedicated on May 26, the day after the opening of the celebration in Buenos Aires.

William Jennings Bryan, recently returned to this country from an extended tour of South and Central America, during which high honors were paid to him, is enthusiastic about South America and its future. He believes that the countries there offer great opportunities to settlers.

"I expect that between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000 people will settle there within the next fifty years," said Mr. Bryan, but he added that he did not believe that they would come from the United States. He mentioned especially the evidences of progress which he found in many parts of South America.

Canada Wants Jean Baptiste to Stay Home

Steady Loss of French Canadians Worries the Dominion.

JEAN BAPTISTE, with madame and the baby—with all of the babies, in fact—has left his ancestral home in large numbers and is continuing to leave it. Therefore the Canadian government mourns.

succeeded and that the French Canadian movement into the United States will figure as one of those big migrations of whole races that have influenced the course of history ever since or perhaps before the ancient Israelites bade farewell to Pharaoh.

Of course the migration of the French Canadian into New England is no new thing, but it is believed that this is the first time that the Dominion government has taken official notice of the loss of so many thousands

claim their share of this hardworking people. It should be said of them that they figure more largely in population and industrial statistics than they do in police court reports.

And that leads us back to the starting point of all human affairs, the babies. If there is one thing more than anything else that the French Canadian is distinguished for it is the size of his family. The average number to the family in Canada, according to the Dominion government's figures, is

root in another community than his native place he becomes a good citizen. The same thing is true of his descendant, for the latter has the added stimulus of a knowledge of the language of his adopted country. In most cases the older folk do not take kindly to a change of tongue, finding it difficult to get around the twists and tangles of English orthography. The younger men go in for politics, too, and take an active interest in public affairs. They come of a race that has produced many keen politicians in the past. Their volubility and social instincts stand them in good stead in this matter.

The shining example of a French Canadian who has succeeded in the politics of the United States is Aram J. Pothier, present governor of the state of Rhode Island. He is, however, the first man of his race to hold very high office. Governor Pothier explains this circumstance thus:

"One must not forget that the French Canadians coming to New England have generally been somewhat ignorant of the English language. In this respect they have been unlike some other foreigners. Besides, many of them had large families for which they had to provide. [The numerous babies again.] Ignorance of the language and the necessity of work are, I think, the main reasons why the French Canadians have not gone into politics to any great extent."

"But there have been at least half a dozen French Canadian members of the Rhode Island legislature each year. I think we shall see French Canadians taking a more and more active part in public life in the future as they become thoroughly Americanized and no longer have linguistic obstacles to overcome."

"And I believe their influence will be felt on American public life, not in a narrow, partisan way, but in a wholesome, patriotic spirit. The French are conservative, cautious and economical."

Governor Pothier says there are about 50,000 persons of French Canadian birth or descent in Rhode Island. That is a pretty large number for a small state with a total estimated population of 523,000. The proportion in the other New England states is considerable, but probably smaller. In the western states also the French Canadians have been influential from the earliest times. The first lieutenant governor of Illinois was Pierre Minard, and many cities have had French Canadian mayors and other holders of official posts.

The protest of the Canadian government against the leaving of the habitant and his family to seek a new home in the United States may well be based on careful, long consideration of the French Canadian's frugality. With all due respect to people of other nationalities with reputations for economy to sustain, it must be said that the French Canadian can make a dollar go further than any of them. Even if he is a descendant of the old seigniors who held lordly domains along the St. Lawrence and who were not parsimonious, the course of centuries has instilled into him a thoroughgoing sense of the value of money. And if he is a descendant of the bourgeois, well, ask any one who has been in France how much a Frenchman thinks of a franc.

PIERRE LATOUCHE.

Oldest American House In Need of Repairs

Government Called Upon to Save the Ancient Cliff Dwellings.

FROM the oldest dwelling house of mankind in America has come a cry for aid to save it from utter ruin. If the spirits of the departed can influence the living, surely the shades of the ancient cliff dwellers of the southwest have made a silent appeal to the lawmakers at Washington for action that will save their houses from becoming merely heaps of disintegrated stones.

It is one of America's most picturesque ruins that needs preservation. Its name is Balcony House, in Ruin Canyon, in the Mesa Verde National park. After withstanding the tests of time for many centuries its walls are about to succumb at last.

Balcony House, with the other relics of the ancient cliff dwellers, stands in the Mesa Verde National park, acquired by the government a few years ago for the express purpose of preserving the ruins. It was found then that some of the most important and largest ruins had suffered from depredations and the ravages of time to so great an extent that considerable repair work was needed to preserve them from entire destruction. In 1908 the sum of \$2,000 was expended by the government in the work of excavating and repairing Spruce Tree House. In 1909 a similar amount was used on the Cliff Palace. Now the Balcony House, in some ways the greatest of the ruins, is calling for funds.

These most interesting relics of the ancient cliff dwellers are situated in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah, near the only point in the United States where four commonwealths meet at a common point, at right angles. They are Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. The houses which it is proposed to save for the permanent instruction of persons interested in prehistoric America are situated in the Mesa Verde region, about two days' journey from Denver. The nearest point on the railroad is Mancos, Colo. In the rarefied air of the mesa, or elevated tableland, an extensive view of the surrounding mountains can be obtained. The prehistoric ruins have a setting of splendid natural scenery to add to their interest for the tourist.

The ruined houses are found in caves on the side of the elevated tableland, from 500 to 900 feet above the dry level of the creek bed that lies at the bottom of the canyons cutting into the mesa. Action of water in geological times left perfectly smooth floors upon which the cliff dwellers were congregate, far back in the dim recesses of time. The overhanging, beetling roofs make access to the houses almost impossible.

The houses that have been reached and excavated have yielded most interesting material to the archaeologists, although it must be confessed that these scientific men have not been able to give us very definite information. Even the time since the cliff

dwellings were abandoned and left to ruin has not been decided with accuracy. Some authorities place it at 500 years, others double that period. It is certain that the cliff dwellings were tenanted long before the Spaniards entered the southwest, about 370 years ago.

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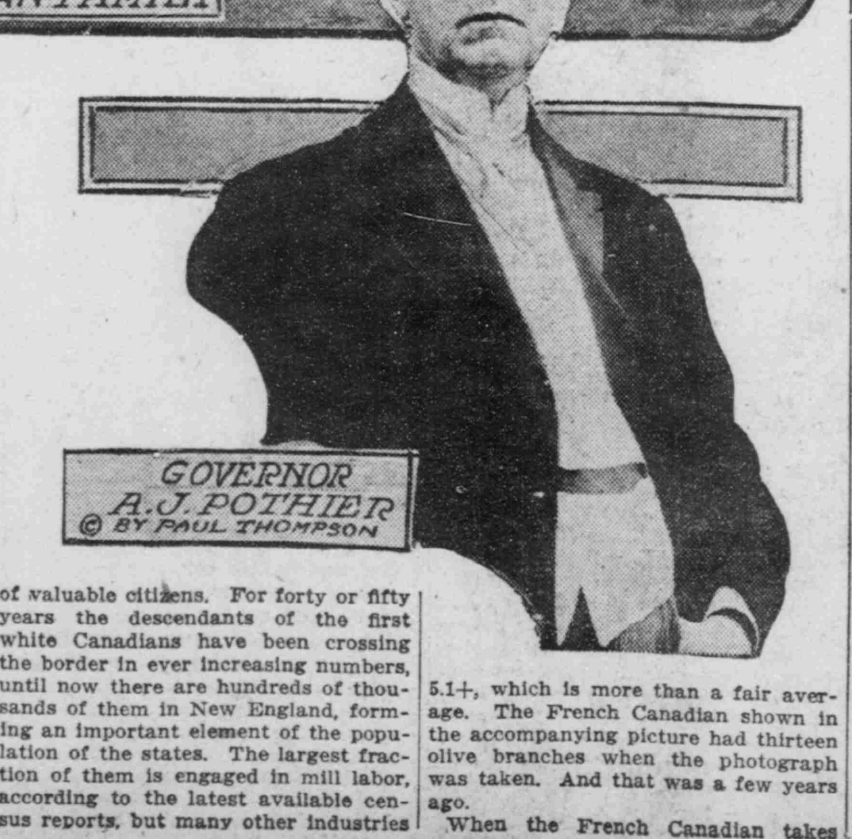
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TYPICAL FRENCH CANADIAN FAMILY

And therefore the Canadian government is trying to keep Jean Baptiste and madame and the numerous babies—above all, don't forget the numerous babies—at home. Again, therefore, the Canadian government has made official protest against the publication of advertisements in the documents of the Dominion department of agriculture calling attention to the desirability of farms in Vermont and others of the United States.

All of which is preliminary to saying that the efficient but somewhat touchy government to the immediate north of Uncle Sam's country recognizes in the French Canadian a valuable citizen and is loath to see him depart. Not that it would mind the loss of an individual French Canadian or two—there would be lots left—but losing these thrifty and frugal and economical and hardworking people en masse, as the French Canadian himself might say, is too much. So his excellency the governor general of Canada and his excellency the premier of Canada and all the other excellencies are lying awake nights devising measures to keep the French Canadian where he belongs historically, under the British flag. But it's more than an even bet that they won't



GOVERNOR A.J. POTHIER OF RHODE ISLAND

of valuable citizens. For forty or fifty years the descendants of the first white Canadians have been crossing the border in ever increasing numbers, until now there are hundreds of thousands of them in New England, forming an important element of the population of the states. The largest fraction of them is engaged in mill labor, according to the latest available census reports, but many other industries

5.1+, which is more than a fair average. The French Canadian shown in the accompanying picture had thirteen olive branches when the photograph was taken. And that was a few years ago.

When the French Canadian takes



MOKI INDIAN

BALCONY HOUSE IN RUIN CANYON

eyrie so far up on the face of the cliffs that access to his home must have been extremely difficult is not known. What caused him to leave his home and establish himself elsewhere is one of the fascinating mysteries over which historians and archaeologists puzzle their brains. Some of them profess to find in the present day Moki or Hopi Indians of Arizona certain physical resemblances to mummies that have been found in the ruins of the cliff dwellings.

To the lay mind it seems that the subject must remain forever a puzzle. If the Mokis, who live in cliff dwellings that bear much resemblance to the ancient ruins, are descendants of the

to preserve the ruins from the work of ignorant vandalism. A few of the small ruins were discovered by prospectors about thirty-five years ago, but it was not until 1886 that the more important ruins were found. Until the houses were discovered by the relics of their first inhabitants by persons who saw in them only an opportunity of making a few dollars. It is believed that the ruinous condition of the houses was brought about less by the inroads of time than by the pernicious activity of vandals in tearing down walls and committing other acts of damage in their search for relics.

ARNOLD M'ADAMS.